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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT Reports on Internal Conditions

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SUPPLEMENT

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This document is hereby regraded to
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letter of 18 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.

[REDACTED] SECTION OF CONTENT

The following picture of the Soviet Union is based on interviews with numerous newspapermen, political leaders, workers, and former prisoners of war.

1. A few thousand PWs have returned to Hungary from various sections of Russia during the last four weeks, and the Hungarians are receiving a very dark picture from them. Besides the devastation of the war they speak of the disorganization of industry and agriculture and the dissatisfaction of the demobilized ex-soldiers with the living conditions of their families, meager food rations, and the discipline on the collective farms. As a result of their outspokenness, a great many of them are allegedly being sent to concentration camps.
2. As seed is bad and cultivation insufficient a hectare did not yield over two and one-half quintals of wheat instead of the 12-18 quintals averaged before the war. One of the PWs, a well known Hungarian agricultural expert, was offered a three year contract at \$500 per month to develop proper seed in Hungary, and then to return to Uzmany to manage the collective farms of the district.
3. As an inducement to increase production and to pacify the returned servicemen, land is being distributed for private ownership. Every able-bodied man may apply for from one to three hectares, according to the size of his family. Owners will have to do their share of work in the collective farm and till their own land. With this land distribution go all the usual privileges of private ownership -- the land can be sold and inherited and passed on.
4. While but few of the returned PWs have come from factory districts, they tell an equally discouraging tale. Machines are in poor condition, production is low, there is an utter lack of discipline, and the ex-servicemen are trying to take over management. About one-fourth of the working time is said to be devoted to shop-meetings.
5. Rolling stock is in bad shape, and with the lack of proper organization and discipline, service is bad. Trains at times are a day late.
6. The only improvement generally spoken about is on the highway system repair-work. New road construction is apparently being pushed strongly.

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